

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, one out of every four Washington State residents experience food-borne illness each year; and

**WHEREAS**, in Washington State, five food-borne pathogens result in increased medical costs, productivity losses, and premature deaths that total an estimated \$138 million every year; and

**WHEREAS**, learning about food safety is vital to increasing our ability to reduce food-borne illnesses, most of which can be easily prevented by the proper preparation and handling of food; and

**WHEREAS**, everyday efforts to prevent food-borne illness are made by dedicated food workers trained to safely prepare and handle food served in Washington State; and

**WHEREAS**, educators, employees, and consumers across the country recognize and encourage the observance of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual National Food Safety Education Month;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2004 as

### *Food Safety Education Month*

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to "Be Aware When You Prepare."

Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004

Governor Gary Locke

